

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle key system for verifying an identity of fingerprint information ~~about a user's~~ regarding a fingerprint of a user and for controlling pieces of equipment in a vehicle according to a verification result regarding the identity of the fingerprint information, said system comprising:

a fingerprint information capturing means for capturing fingerprint information from a user's the fingerprint of the user;

a fingerprint information storage means for ~~pre-storing~~ storing at least a one piece of fingerprint information ~~about an authorized user's fingerprint~~ regarding an authorized user;

a manipulation detection means for detecting manipulations of at least one operation unit for controlling the pieces of equipment in the vehicle and at least one pedal;

a fingerprint verification means for verifying an identity of the fingerprint information captured by said fingerprint information capturing means in a first processing mode by comparing ~~it~~ the fingerprint information captured by said fingerprint information capturing means with the ~~authorized user's~~ fingerprint information of the authorized user stored in said fingerprint information storage means, wherein the vehicle key system is configured to operate in

the first processing mode and at least a second processing mode for administering storage of information in the fingerprint information storage means; and

a fingerprint information processing means for performing a plurality of processes on the fingerprint information captured by said fingerprint information capturing means in a plurality of processing modes, respectively;

a manipulation detection means for detecting at least one of a predetermined manipulation of an operation unit for controlling the pieces of equipment in the vehicle and a predetermined manipulation of a pedal; and

a processing mode switching means for switching between the plurality of first and second processing modes according to the predetermined manipulation detected detection of a predetermined manipulation of the at least one operation unit or the at least one pedal by said manipulation detection means.

Q. 2. (Currently Amended) The vehicle key system according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~plurality of processing modes include a~~ the first processing mode in which said system can allow enables the user to use the vehicle after said fingerprint verification means establishes the identity of the user's fingerprint information of the user, and a ~~the second processing mode in which said system can register~~ registers the user's fingerprint information of the user to said fingerprint information storage means, and wherein said processing mode switching means switches between the first and second processing modes according to the predetermined manipulation detected by said manipulation detection means.

1 — start after vet
2 — enrollment

Q1 3. (Currently Amended) The vehicle key system according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of processing modes include ~~a~~ ^{1 - start} the first processing mode ~~in which said system can allow~~ ^{2 - deletes} enables the user to use the vehicle after said fingerprint verification means establishes the identity of the ~~user's~~ fingerprint information of the user, and ~~a~~ the second processing mode ~~in which said system can delete~~ deletes corresponding fingerprint information stored in said fingerprint information storage means, and wherein said processing mode switching means switches between the first and second processing modes according to the predetermined manipulation detected by said manipulation detection means.

4. (Currently Amended) The vehicle key system according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of processing modes include ~~a~~ ^{1 - start} the first processing mode ~~in which said system can allow~~ ^{2 - start without} enables the user to use the vehicle after said fingerprint verification means establishes the identity of the ~~user's~~ fingerprint information of the user, and ~~a~~ the second processing mode ~~in which said system can allow~~ enables the user to use the vehicle without verification of the identity of the ~~user's~~ fingerprint information of the user, and wherein said processing mode switching means switches between the first and second processing modes according to the predetermined manipulation detected by said manipulation detection means.

5. (Currently Amended) The vehicle key system according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of processing modes include ~~a~~ the first processing mode ~~in which said system can allow~~

1 - stored
2 - off fingerprint
3 - delete
4 - without

Q1 enables the user to use the vehicle after said fingerprint verification means establishes the identity of the ~~user's~~ fingerprint information of the user, ~~a~~ the second processing mode in which said system ~~can register~~ registers the ~~user's~~ fingerprint information of the user to said fingerprint information storage means, a third processing mode ~~in which said system can delete~~ deletes corresponding fingerprint information stored in said fingerprint information storage means, and a fourth processing mode ~~in which said system can allow~~ enables the user to use the vehicle without verification of the identity of the ~~user's~~ fingerprint information of the user, and wherein said processing mode switching means switches between the first processing mode and either one of the second, third, and fourth processing modes according to the predetermined manipulation detected by said manipulation detection means.

6. (Currently Amended) The vehicle key system according to Claim 1, wherein said operation unit ~~is~~ comprises at least one of a wiper switch, a winker switch, ~~or~~ and a shift lever, and said pedal ~~is~~ comprises an acceleration pedal, a brake pedal, or a clutch pedal.

7. (Currently Amended) The vehicle key system according to Claim 1, wherein said operation unit ~~is a one intended for manipulating~~ manipulates a navigation unit for providing a variety of navigation services for users.

sub.B1 8. (Currently Amended) A vehicle key system for verifying an identity of fingerprint information ~~about a user's~~ regarding a fingerprint of a user and for controlling pieces

of equipment in a vehicle according to a verification result regarding the identity of the fingerprint information, said system comprising:

a fingerprint information capturing means for capturing fingerprint information from a user's the fingerprint of the user;

a fingerprint information storage means for ~~pre-storing~~ storing at least ~~a one~~ piece of fingerprint information ~~about an authorized user's fingerprint~~ regarding an authorized user;

Q1 a fingerprint verification means for verifying an identity of the fingerprint information captured by said fingerprint information capturing means in a first processing mode by comparing ~~it~~ the fingerprint information captured by said fingerprint information capturing means with the ~~authorized user's~~ fingerprint information of the authorized user stored in said fingerprint information storage means, wherein the vehicle key system is configured to operate in the first processing mode and at least a second processing mode for administering storage of information in the fingerprint information storage means;

~~a fingerprint information processing means for performing a plurality of processes on the fingerprint information captured by said fingerprint information capturing means in a plurality of processing modes, respectively;~~

a connecting means for connecting said vehicle key system with ~~a given~~ an external unit and receiving a signal which indicates manipulation of the external unit; and

~~a manipulation detection means for detecting a signal applied thereto via said connecting means, said signal indicating a predetermined manipulation of said external unit; and~~

a processing mode switching means for switching between the ~~plurality of~~ first and second processing modes ~~according to said signal detected by said manipulation detection means~~ when the vehicle key system detects the signal received by the connections means indicating a predetermined manipulation of the external means.

Q. 9. (Currently Amended) The vehicle key system according to Claim 8, wherein ~~said plurality of processing modes include a~~ the first processing mode ~~in which said system can allow~~ enables the user to use the vehicle after said fingerprint verification means establishes the identity of the ~~user's~~ fingerprint information of the user, and ~~a~~ the second processing mode ~~in which said system can register~~ registers the user's fingerprint information of the user to said fingerprint information storage means, and wherein said processing mode switching means switches between the first and second processing modes ~~according to said signal detected by said manipulation detection means~~ when the vehicle key system detects the signal received by the connections means indicating the predetermined manipulation of the external means.

10. (Currently Amended) The vehicle key system according to Claim 8, wherein ~~said plurality of processing modes include a~~ the first processing mode in which said system ~~can allow~~ enables the user to use the vehicle after said fingerprint verification means establishes the identity of the ~~user's~~ fingerprint information of the user, and ~~a~~ the second processing ~~mode in which said system can delete~~ deletes corresponding fingerprint information stored in said fingerprint information storage means, and wherein said processing mode switching means

switches between the first and second processing modes ~~according to said signal detected by said~~
~~manipulation detection means~~ when the vehicle key system detects the signal received by the
connections means indicating the predetermined manipulation of the external means.

Q. 11. (Currently Amended) The vehicle key system according to Claim 8, wherein ~~said~~
~~plurality of processing modes include a~~ the first processing mode in which said system ~~can allow~~
enables the user to use the vehicle after said fingerprint verification means establishes the
identity of the ~~user's~~ fingerprint information of the user, and ~~a the~~ second processing mode ~~in~~
~~which said system can allow~~ enables the user to use the vehicle without verification of the
identity of the ~~user's~~ fingerprint information of the user, and wherein said processing mode
switching means switches between the first and second processing modes ~~according to said~~
~~signal detected by said manipulation detection means~~ when the vehicle key system detects the
signal received by the connections means indicating the predetermined manipulation of the
external means.

12. (Currently Amended) The vehicle key system according to Claim 8, wherein ~~said~~
~~plurality of processing modes include a~~ the first processing mode ~~in which said system can allow~~
enables the user to use the vehicle after said fingerprint verification means establishes the
identity of the ~~user's~~ fingerprint information of the user, ~~a the~~ second processing mode ~~in which~~
~~said system can register~~ registers the ~~user's~~ fingerprint information of the user to said fingerprint
information storage means, a third processing mode ~~in which said system can delete~~ deletes

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Q, corresponding fingerprint information stored in said fingerprint information storage means, and a fourth processing mode ~~in which said system can allow~~ enables the user to use the vehicle without verification of the identity of the user's fingerprint information of the user, and wherein said processing mode switching means switches between the first processing mode and either one of the second, third, and fourth processing modes ~~according to the predetermined manipulation detected by said manipulation detection means~~ when the vehicle key system detects the signal received by the connections means indicating the predetermined manipulation of the external means.